

PRESS RELEASE
MULTI-NATIONAL SECURITY TRANSITION COMMAND –
IRAQ

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Iraqi police graduate 1,469 from basic training

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The Iraq Police Service graduated 1,469 police officers 12 May from basic police training courses in Al Hillah and Baghdad. Completing the eight-week training courses were 517 police recruits from the Al Hillah Regional Academy and 952 from the Baghdad Police College. The Baghdad class included 16 female police recruits.

This was the first eight-week course to graduate from the Al Hillah site; the first of Iraq's police academies to use only Iraqi instructors. The 18 Iraqi instructors were selected after attending an Advanced Instructors Training course. "They are the best of the best," said Major Bassin Mohammed, the academy dean.

The graduation ceremony was particularly poignant as the police recruits marched with each platoon leader carrying a placard inscribed with the name of a police officer killed in the line of duty during an especially violent attack in 2004. The name of the martyr was announced by the Master of Ceremonies as the respective platoon leader passed the stage.

Attending the graduation was Lieutenant General David H. Petraeus, Commanding General of the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq (MNSTC-I) who commended the graduates for successfully completing months of tough training. "Iraq's greatest resource is not its oil or farmland," said General Petraeus. "It's you, its people and especially its leaders." The basic police training program is designed to provide fundamental and democratic policing skills based on international human rights standards to the students in preparation for assuming police officer responsibilities.

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The program consists of academic study of general policing topics combined with a heavy emphasis on tactical operational policing skills. The basic police training curriculum was recently modified to include more hands-on and practical training exercises especially addressing specific survival skills needed by today's Iraqi Police Service officers.

To date, more than 31,000 police recruits have completed the eight-week training course developed for new recruits. An additional 36,000 police officers have completed the three-week Transitional Integration Program (TIP) course that provides officers with prior police experience a condensed version of the longer basic police training course.

The new officers will report for duty in the coming weeks and take up their assignments at their respective police stations throughout Iraq.

For more information about the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq, please visit www.mnstci.iraq.centcom.mil.